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*Le magnétisme animal étudié sous le nom de force neurique rayonnante et circulante.* Dr. A. BARÉTY. Paris, 1887, 662 pp.

This is not only the largest but perhaps the most systematic, so far as tabulations, full definitions of terms in a glossary, an index of over thirty pages, etc., can go, of all the French treatises thus far produced in this field. It contains eighty-two illustrations. Dr. Baréty squarely assumes in the preface that he has to do not with hypnotism, Braidism, or suggestion, but with a force within the human body that can pass its limits and influence other bodies, and can be stored up in fluid and solid substances. This force is seated or developed in the nervous system, is called neuricity or neural force, and may be static or dynamic. If the latter, it circulates along the nerve fibres and also diffuses or irradiates outward. Irradiation of this force may be ocular, digital, or pneumatic. Of its many properties, those which act on living substances are called physiological. This force is propagated rapidly, along straight lines, may be reflected like light, and even refracted in a neural spectrum. It passes through many bodies and through some colors, the latter being thus distinguished as dianeuric and aneuric. Yellow paper, and complementary yellow, *e. g.*, completely intercept ocular and digital but not pneumatic neuricity, but loses its aneuric properties if wet with a solution of quinine. Water is completely aneuric, but can be charged with neuric force. The different methods of neurization by contact, at a distance, by reflection, etc., are described. Fixed digital radiation can cause anaesthesia, hyperaesthesia, contraction, sleep general or of individual senses. Mobile digital radiations or passes, if in the direction of nerves, cause anaesthesia and contractions; if in the opposite direction, hyperaesthesia and muscular relaxation. Thus the direction in which the nerves pass or are distributed to the skin is basal for the determination of zones. Anaesthetic passes, *e. g.*, each side the nose must be downward, on the forehead upward, on the cheeks they must follow the facial nerve forward, must ray out in all directions from the superficial cervical plexus. If passes are from the forehead directly over the top of the head down to the neck, anaesthesia is caused in the front and hyperaesthesia in the back of the scalp, where nerves are distributed upward. The face is thus divided by a number of zones, lines delineating the "part" in the direction of nerves. On the inside of the arms, upward passes cause anaesthesia; on the outside, hyperaesthesia. Light passes down the back and up the face of the fingers cause flexion and insensibility; in the opposite direction, hyperaesthesia and extension, and so on for the rest of the body, the eye being often quite as effective, and all this part of the subject being copiously illustrated. Blowing is more irradiated across boundary or zone lines, is more subject to transfer, and can exalt the sensibility of eyes and ears. In contact between the magnetizer and his subject, the latter is made anaesthetic if the nerves of the parts in contact are distributed in the same direction; hyperaesthetic if in opposite directions. Liquids and solids may be neurized by blowing, by touch, and sometimes by the eyes, and thus become condensers or accumulators, or magazines of one or more of these three species of force. Opposite parts of these substances, however small, may be neutralized in opposite senses. A square bit of paper breathed upon causes joy if applied anteriorly to the body of a good subject, and sadness if applied posteriorly. With subjects previously rendered anaesthetic, dorsal rays of force passed

through a prism cause sadness if they impinge on the dorsal side of the subject's hand, and happiness if on the palmar side, and conversely of palmar rays, with a region of indifferent rays between. The force was later found to be conducted along the hair of the subject; through the body of a third person, unilateral phenomena were developed, new points of contact for exciting partial waking in sleep, or other specific reactions were discovered.

We have no further space to detail the maze of discoveries of laws and deductions, all derived from the study of one hysterical girl of eighteen. The last part of the book describes very briefly, and with little attempt to confirm the above results, eleven other cases of patients who showed some of the more common phenomena of hypnotism. Quite apart from all question of the validity of all these theories, they have a suggestiveness of their own as a joint product of pseudo-scientific methods gradually evolving a set of systematized symptom-reactions in an interesting hysterical subject, half whimsical originations, half subtle divination of theories of the experimenter almost before they are known to himself.

*Découverte de la polarité humaine.* Dr. CHAZASAIN. Paris, 1886, 29 pp.

The positive pole of a magnet, when applied to the external side of the hand or arm, foot or leg, and on the left side of the trunk and head, causes contracture, as also does the negative pole if applied to the inner side of the limbs and the right side of the body. Resolution of contractures is produced by converse applications, viz. the positive pole to the inside of the limbs and right side of the trunk. This is all duly shown by diagrams. The + and — electrodes from a constant current produce the same effects. These effects are all transposed in left-handed subjects. The so-called laws for the separate fingers and their parts are too complex for statement here. If one person touches a part of like polarity of another person, such "isonomic" contact causes contracture, while "heteronomic" contact is decontractive. Isonomic contact is also anaesthetic and reduces muscular energy; heteronomic is hyperaesthetic and increases it, and polarizing action is in general hypnogenic. Extending the hand heteronomally attracts a subject "as by an irresistible force," while isonomic positions repel. The law of transfer is derived from that of polarity, which is common to animals and plants, all being bipolar, while minerals are unipolar.

For those impressed by such conclusions it would be interesting to know how this author reconciles his conclusions with the very diverse but no less remarkable laws of Baréty.

*La suggestion mentale, et l'action à distance des substances toxiques et médicamenteuses.* Docteurs H. BOURRU et P. BUROR, professeurs à l'École de Médecine de Rochefort. Paris, 1887, 308 pp.

The studies here reported began in 1885, with a young man who was subject to violent attacks of hysteria. The other principal subject was a young woman. It was found that non-volatile substances placed in the hand or behind the neck of these subjects produced characteristic effects, markedly distinct, rapid and intense. In some later cases the following suggestions of Richet were observed: 1. The operator did not know what the substance was which he held either in a tightly sealed bottle or wrapped in paper, either in con-